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Iowa to Host National Conference for Protecting Drug Endangered Children

DES MOINES—The Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) today joined with the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (DEC) to announce that Iowa has been selected to host the ninth annual National DEC conference - "Collaborating for Healthier Children, Stronger Families and Safer Communities." Approximately 400 participants are expected to attend the meeting, October 23-25, at the Marriott Des Moines Downtown.

"We're very pleased to partner with the Iowa Alliance for Drug Endangered Children and the Iowa Office of Drug Control Policy to bring our annual national conference to Iowa," said Chuck Noerenberg, President of National DEC.

"Every day, children in America face serious neglect and abuse because parents or caregivers use, deal or manufacture illegal drugs or abuse controlled substances," stated Noerenberg. "Our annual national conference raises awareness about the risks faced by drug endangered children and provides training for practitioners to better identify and protect these children."

The national DEC conference will bring together law enforcement officers, child protection workers, prosecutors, substance abuse prevention and treatment providers, health care professionals, educators, community leaders and others from throughout the U.S. Attendees will discuss threats to drug endangered children, and develop more effective interventions.

"Protecting children exposed to drug abuse is a priority in the State's Drug Control Strategy, and for all Iowans," said Steve Lukan, ODCP Director and Iowa's Drug Policy Coordinator. "When we identify children living in a dangerous drug environment, we have an opportunity to intervene and break the cycle of drug abuse, child neglect and other criminal activity."

"In choosing Des Moines as this year's DEC conference site, national officials recognize the leadership and collaboration in a growing number of Iowa communities to save these children," said Lukan.

All Iowans interested in protecting children exposed to drug abuse are encouraged to attend. Information and registration is available at www.nationaldec.org.

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